

fidence in the patriotism of the great body of Federalists. His election, to his mind, meant a new era in the government of the United States and even in that of the world. To his old Revolutionary friend, John Dickinson, he wrote: "A just and solid Republican government maintained here will be a standing monument and example for the aim and imitation of the people of other countries; and I join with you in the hope and belief that they will see from our example that a free government is of all others the most energetic; that the inquiry that has been excited among the mass of mankind by our Revolution and its consequence will ameliorate the condition of man over a great portion of the globe."

These letters are also full of a subject which necessarily arose with the incoming of the new party. It was the subject of removals from and appointments to office.* Jefferson's attitude on this question was, throughout, one of firmness and consistency. When his election by the House of Representatives hung in the balance, he had refused to bind himself to retain Federalist office-holders in their positions. Now that he had won, he as stoutly refused to yield to the importunities of those members of his own party who clamored for the dismissal of their opponents. In assuming this position, the tolerance with which he regarded the body of Federalists naturally played a large part. Nevertheless, he did not see his way to purchase their favor by undue concessions. As early as March 7th, he wrote to Monroe: "To give time for a perfect consideration seems prudent. I have firmly refused to follow the counsels of those who have desired the giving offices to some of their leaders in order to reconcile. I have given and will give only to Republicans under existing circumstances. * * * Some deprivations of office I know must be made. They must be as few as possible, done gradually, and bottomed on some malversation or inherent disqualification. Where we shall draw the line between retaining all and none is not yet settled, and will not be till we get our administration together; and perhaps

*See Offices, page 322. Also Nepotism, page 318; and Civil Service, page 156.